

# Subordinating Conjunctions

An adverb clause is introduced by a **subordinating conjunction**—a word or word group that shows the relationship between the adverb clause and the word or words the clause modifies. Common subordinating conjunctions include *although, as if, because, if, so that, than, unless, when, where, and while*.

**EXAMPLES** The aroma of shrimp gumbo greeted Mother **when she arrived home from work**.  
[When shows the relationship between the adverb clause and the verb *greeted*.]

**EXERCISE A** In each of the following sentences, draw a line under the adverb clause and circle the subordinating conjunction.

**Example 1.** Before she left for work, Keiko remembered to pack a lunch.

1. Though I did not enjoy the first page, I finished the story.
2. Oscar can swim much farther than I can.
3. You may watch television after dinner as long as you finish your homework first.
4. The post office is closed because today is Presidents' Day.
5. Unless the track team wins its next two meets, it will not go to the state finals.
6. There are footnotes at the bottom of each page so that the reader can immediately see the meaning of old or obscure words.
7. If the weather stays nice, we can go biking this afternoon.
8. Susannah sounds as though she has a bad cold.
9. Although the salad usually came with olives, Gretchen asked the cook not to put olives on hers.
10. Jan's kite soared higher than Mimi's model airplane flew.

**EXERCISE B** On the line provided, identify the underlined word group as AC for *adverb clause* or PP for *prepositional phrase*.

**Example** PP 1. Until Saturday, the folk singer will be appearing nightly at the pizza parlor.

- \_\_\_\_\_ 11. Until I was born, my family lived in St. Louis, Missouri.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 12. We left the campsite a few minutes before dawn.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 13. Since breakfast, we have seen eight blue jays.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 14. Hilary spoke to Steve and Judy after she spoke to me.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 15. Try to finish those dishes before you leave.